(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the telephones in the above places remain out of order for most of the period during the year;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have made any efforts to avoid such disruption in future; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Replacement of Telephone Machines/Spares in Rural Exchanges

†202. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to replace old machines and spares with new ones and provide power back up generators in rural telephone exchanges keeping in view the difficulties being faced by telephone consumers;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to make such arrangement in Telehone exhange-Jangla, located at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, a fully rural and hilly area; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Replacement of equipment is subject to expiry of the prescribed life and availability of new equipment. Power backup Generators are also provided in the rural exchanges.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is a plan to provide Engine Alternator at Jangla during year 2003-04.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.